

## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

**Focus Equities and United Nations Association In Canada (UNA-Canada) come together for International Women’s Day to acknowledge and celebrate women’s achievements in Canada and around the world.**

**OTTAWA – March 5, 2014.** The United Nations Association In Canada (UNA-Canada), will host the second annual Patricia and Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. Global Issues Dialogue on Thursday, March 6, 2014. Together, Focus Equities and UNA-Canada are working to convene distinguished global thought-leaders from academia, government, civil society and the private sector to explore critical issues to Canada and the world.

“International Women’s Day is a chance for us to come together as global citizens to recognize and celebrate historic global improvements in women’s lives. It is also a day to remind us of the millions of women and girls around the world who still struggle under the weight of poverty and inequality, and to pursue further action for positive change. Equality for women is progress for all. As business leaders, it is an honour to be bringing together Canadians around this vital issue,” said Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr.

The Patricia and Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. Global Issues Dialogue features a keynote presentation from Corinne Woods, Director of the UN Millennium Campaign. This campaign supports citizens’ efforts to hold their governments accountable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and leads the outreach to citizens and stakeholders to get their voices and concerns to feed into the Post-2015 global development agenda.

“The Patricia and Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. Global Issues Dialogue has become a foundational element of UNA-Canada’s work to reach and engage Canadians,” says Kathryn White, President and CEO, United Nations Association In Canada, “The investment of Focus Equities in support for and shaping of the annual Patricia and Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. Dialogue is measure of a significant and on-going corporate social responsibility commitment. We are pleased to partner with Focus Equities in building a better world, in growing global citizens.”

Building a stronger, more sustainable global community is a passion for both Patricia and Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. “It is our hope that by bringing together some of the brightest minds on a sustained and annual basis through the Dialogue, we can contribute innovatively towards a global future that is more prosperous, sustainable and secure for generations to come,” says Kenneth W. Mariash Sr., Founder, Focus Equities.

## Backgrounder

### **About Focus Equities:**

Focus Equities, a Canadian corporation, provides development, investment and project finances in real estate, infrastructure and mining. Founded over 35 years ago by a Canadian entrepreneur Kenneth W. Mariash Sr., Focus Equities and its associated companies ("Focus") have developed, purchased, or sold more than 15 million square feet of real estate and more than 10,000 residential/condominium units in North America. Focus Equities is currently developing over \$5 billion USD of projects in North America and has a long track record of successful innovative financial structures.

### **About Kenneth W. Mariash Sr., Founder, Focus Equities:**

Kenneth W. Mariash Sr., working alongside wife and partner Patricia Mariash, is regarded as one of the most visionary developers in North America and has transformed millions of square feet into profitable commercial and residential ventures. With his baccalaureate degrees in mathematics, science, business, accounting and architecture, plus an MBA and 40 years of building construction, real estate development and investing, Mariash's experience is key to the success of his large-scale projects. The distinctive aesthetic vision he brings to each of his projects is evidence of his prior training as an architect and artist.

Kenneth W. Mariash Sr. is an active board member for the United Nations of Canada, and last year, along with his wife Patricia, partnered with the United Nations to launch The Patricia & Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr. Global Issues Dialogue. The objective of the annual event is to bring the best and brightest together and to develop a dialogue that fosters collaboration across all organizations and between all stakeholders.

### **About Patricia Mariash, Interior Architect/Owner, Focus Equities:**

For more than 25 years, Patricia Mariash has been a real estate entrepreneur and commercial interior architect who has successfully completed thousands of prestigious corporate headquarters. Before becoming engaged in the commercial real estate development business, Patricia founded her own award-winning commercial interior architecture business. These projects encompassed more than 15 million square feet and represented some of the world's most notable corporate headquarters throughout North America and Europe.

### **Event Details:**

*When:* Thursday, March 6, 2014

11:30 AM - Registration

12:00-2:00 PM - Luncheon

*Where:* Ottawa Marriott Hotel

100 Kent Street

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 5R7

*Press Opportunities:* Media is welcomed, the only requirement is to sign-in at the registration desk.

### **For more information, or to set up an interview, please contact:**

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